

We repeat our expression of the Journal's National Policy: Annex Hawaii, secure bases in the West Indies, dig the Nicaragua Canal, build the finest navy in the world, and construct great national universities at West Point and Annapolis. And we reaffirm our declaration in favor of the Jeffersonian principle of national expansion.

NEW YORK JOURNAL AND ADVERTISER.

W. R. HEARST.

AN AMERICAN PAPER FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Paying the Piper.

"There are plenty of idiots in both public and private life," severely remarks a Republican contemporary, "who apparently believe that colonies can be owned and governed and peace maintained in them without cost. They are the men who are always anxious to dance, but always unwilling to pay the fiddler."

This is the spirit in which we may expect Secretary Alger's monstrous proposition that we spend \$166,000,000 a year on our army in time of peace to be defended by his party organs. It will not work.

If the acquisition of the Philippines and Porto Rico necessarily involved such an expense, it would be the dearest bargain any nation ever concluded. The entire trade of all those islands with all the world—imports and exports combined—amounts to only \$60,000,000 a year. If we doubled it, and then monopolized it all, and called the whole of it clear profit, we should still fall nearly \$50,000,000 short of paying the cost of Mr. Alger's army alone. The American people are not that kind of business men.

England has colonies and possessions, outside of India, containing 9,413,154 square miles and 57,000,000 inhabitants, and she takes care of them all with a regular army of 147,103 men, costing less than \$100,000,000 a year. We have acquired possessions aggregating 119,000 square miles and 9,000,000 inhabitants, together with a protectorate of an island of 41,655 square miles and 1,200,000 people, and Mr. Alger says we should have to spend \$166,000,000 a year on an army to keep them in order.

Not if the Democratic party knows it.

WHAT THE MERCHANTS NEED.

The Merchants' Association is making a systematic effort to secure legislation bringing the express companies doing business in this State under the control of the Railroad Commissioners. Express rates are so exorbitant that the natural growth of business is checked, and shippers are driven to the most exasperating shifts, such as combining to send their shipments to common distributing points by fast freight, in order to retain any trade at all.

The merchants are thoroughly in the right, and whatever relief they may be able to gain from State legislation should be unhesitatingly granted. But when they have gone as far as they can in that direction their condition will not be much improved. The Railroad Commissioners will not be able, if they are willing, to do much for them, even in this State, and in any case relief bounded by State lines would be of small advantage to a city situated like New York.

What the merchants want is a parcels post, carrying merchandise to any part of the United States at a uniform, moderate rate. When John Wanamaker was Postmaster-General he said that there were three arguments that would prevent the Government from undertaking such an enterprise, and he named the leading three express companies.

Perhaps if all the merchants pull together they can convince Congress that those arguments are not unanswerable.

THE VANDERBILTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE.

Mr. Chauncey Depew has a sort of popularity throughout the country as well as at home. His after-dinner speeches and fondness for anecdotes have established him in deserved favor as an amateur humorist. His name suggests geniality, good cheer, good stories, laughter and industrious amiability. Mr. Depew has earned all the fame that has come to him; he has worked very hard during many years to achieve it.

But Mr. Depew will not be sent to the Senate because of his geniality and talent as a raconteur. Everybody knows that he has been festive and funny for a purpose. He has needed popularity in his business as the agent who stands between his employers and the public. A clearer-headed business man than Chauncey Depew exists nowhere. When he jokes there is business behind the jest; when he thrills the table with his practiced eloquence he is thinking of how he may realize on the applause. It is his profession to make himself agreeable. Because of his capacity to do that, and his business ability when he is not making himself agreeable, the Vanderbilts employ him.

When a man has served a family as long as Mr. Depew has served the Vanderbilts, it is asking too much to expect that he can change his attitude toward the rest of the world. He is too old to begin life over again. It is second nature with him to care for the interests of the multi-millionaires whose livery he has worn through most of his manhood.

If Mr. Platt should insist upon giving Mr. Depew a seat in the Senate beside himself, Mr. Depew will not take it as a representative of the people of New York, but as the representative of the Vanderbilts and their enormous

personal and corporate wealth. He will be under Mr. Platt's orders, of course, but Mr. Platt can be trusted to give him no orders that are not approved by Mr. Depew's masters.

Were he an independent person, one who occupied a position in the community apart from the Vanderbilts, Mr. Depew would be acceptable enough as a Senator. He has brains, and can talk, and is presentable. No Republican could be chosen who would not be a spokesman for the plutocracy in a general way, but Mr. Depew would be that in a special sense—so conspicuously indeed that his entry into the Senate would be resented as an affront by that body, which still has a desire to keep up appearances. Most of the Senators would be delighted to receive either William K. or Cornelius Vanderbilt as one of themselves, but they would object to the introduction of Mr. Vanderbilt's servant among them.

The responsibility for Senator Depew will be upon the Vanderbilts. They are not to be envied. The impolicy of rubbing it in is understood by very rich men who retain their common sense.

DEMOCRATIC GAINS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Elections for city officers were held in sixteen Massachusetts cities on Tuesday. While the issues that determined the various contests were local, the gains made by the Democrats are very significant.

There is no claim on the part of the Republicans that apathy was responsible for their defeat. In fact both parties fought with unusual vigor and earnestness.

At Marlboro a Democratic Mayor was chosen. At Pittsfield the Democrats elected the Mayor and a majority of the Aldermen and Councilmen. Haverhill, which heretofore has always had a Republican majority, was carried by the Social Democrats, the Mayor, three Aldermen and three Councilmen being chosen.

These victories were won by an alliance between the workingmen and the Democrats, particularly at Haverhill and Marlboro, where the labor controversy involving the shoe industry was an issue in the campaign.

It is gratifying to see the labor unions renewing their allegiance to the Democracy. When the workingmen at last realize that every influence that keeps the Republican party in power is opposed to their emancipation from the slavery of unremunerative labor they will follow the example of their co-workers in Massachusetts.

They are learning slowly. The Journal has repeatedly pointed out to the toilers of America that if they are oppressed the power to compel better treatment lies wholly with them. They can organize for a peaceful revolution through the ballot box. Neither selfish political bosses nor organizations of corrupt capital can stand before such a protest.

THERE IS WORK FOR WOMEN.

The women of the cafes when driven out of their dens the other night demanded of the raiding police captain:

"Well, what are we to do now? How are we to live?"

And he answered promptly:

"Go to work. You are no better than thousands upon thousands of respectable women who do that."

A sensible police captain. No woman who is willing to work is under compulsion to become an outcast. Of course, females who cannot bear the thought of going into a kitchen, and prefer to that social disadvantage the hideous mud at the bottom of the human sea, may insist that an honest living is not to be made.

They are wrong. No woman ready to do domestic service need be out of employment in New York.

That large and eloquent fact stands forth to confront sentimentalists who call for tears on behalf of fallen women who are too proud to be servants, but not too proud to disgrace themselves and their sex and bring shame and killing grief to the decent mothers that bore them.

HOW CANADA WILL COME IN.

A few impracticable persons on both sides of the border, who understand neither country, are talking of some sort of territorial trade by which England may "cede" Canada to the United States.

Canada is not England's to cede. Nominally it is a British possession, actually it is a republic. Canada is owned by the people of Canada. They alone have power to cede it to us. That they will do, but not for a while yet.

The war with Spain has done a great deal toward accelerating in the Dominion the movement for the annexation of Canada. Everybody except a mugwump admires a successful fighter.

Hitherto the Canadian attitude toward the United States has not been friendly. The colonial mind has been embittered by the contrast between the progress of Canada and that of the Union. The Dominion has advanced at a snail's pace, while we have gone ahead with the confident, conquering stride of a giant. And on the principle that to him that hath shall be given, we have drawn away the best of Canada's young men—the most energetic and brainy and ambitious of her people. We have among our population half as many native born Canadians as live in Canada. Under the circumstances it is not surprising that human nature being what it is, there should be a great deal of jealousy to the north of the boundary line, a jealousy which finds expression in sneering

and detraction and an eagerness to magnify out of their true proportion the political and moral evils that accompany our march, even as dust and wind go with an express train. Like the poor man who does not understand the art of making money, and takes it out of the rich by assuming superior virtue and railing at them, the Canadian has cultivated ill-will against the Great Republic.

But when it came to a war, our neighbors in spite of themselves were sympathetic. Their blood spoke and their hearts warmed. Military glory appeals irresistibly to the Anglo-Saxon. These colonies of ours, which affect the Small American as a pall of water does the domestic hen, commend us to the Canadian. The vastness of Great Britain's empire has ever filled him with pride and reconciled him to his un-American position of nominal dependence. With distant possessions we are more like England than we were, and that inspires cordiality in the Canadian.

Since our war, we repeat, there has been a distinct revival of the annexation sentiment in the Dominion. Commercial interest has always been on the side of that sentiment, and now a human desire to share in the obviously enlarging destiny of the American Republic reinforces business reasons.

In the United States there is no impatience about Canada. We do not want it until it is ready to ask the privilege of joining us. We are doing very well and are in no hurry to increase our family of States. The favor will be to Canada and not to us when we permit her to become a sharer in our liberties, wealth and magnificent future.

But every American owes it to Canada and to truth to recognize that she is not a piece of British property which can be disposed of from London at will. Her people are independent and self-governing—so much so that when they decide to petition for annexation to the United States Great Britain will raise no serious objection. Objection would be unavailing.

IS IT A BURDEN?

A Republican contemporary offers the sage observation: "A standing army of 100,000 men will mean one soldier to 750 inhabitants. That can scarcely be deemed a crushing load of militarism."

No, if the load of militarism were borne by having the one soldier stand on the heads of the 750 inhabitants. It happens, however, that the pressure of the load is financial. An expenditure of \$166,000,000 a year for a standing army, according to Secretary Alger's proposition, means a tax of about \$11 on every family in the United States.

Ask the hod-carrier who supports his wife and six children on \$1.25 a day how he likes that.

And a total expenditure of \$366,000,000 a year for military purposes—army, navy and pensions—means a tax of \$24.40 on every family in the United States.

Ask the hod-carrier how he likes that.

"CAESARINE" is black, and weighs four pounds and nine ounces. She came into the world as Julius Caesar did, but she found it a more hospitable world than the one into which he was unceremoniously ushered. The heir of the ancient Julian house and the future dictator of Rome had to take his chances of life, and was lucky in escaping exposure on a rock. Little black Caesarine lies on swansdown pillows in an incubator. And perhaps when dark New Women come to their own, she may turn the world upside down.

THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

An Appeal for the Strengthening of This Once Powerful Organization.

Editor of the New York Journal: With the meeting held by the Knights of Labor at Grand Central Palace on Friday, December 2, a new era opened up for the old order. A majority of those present were for the first time in years willing listeners to the plans there outlined for the rehabilitation of the organization.

Many of the men and women there, who have figured in the labor movement of this city for the past twenty years, learned their first lessons of equity around the shrine of the order. They showed by attending this meeting, as well as in private conversation, that they have not forgotten their old love and that they welcome the opportunity to again become members of the organization.

Of course, our trade matters are first to be considered, as upon them our present existence depends; but should we stop there? Is there no other purpose in life for the workingman than the mere wages of to-day and the fear that they may be reduced to-morrow? It would indeed be a hopeless condition of life if this were true.

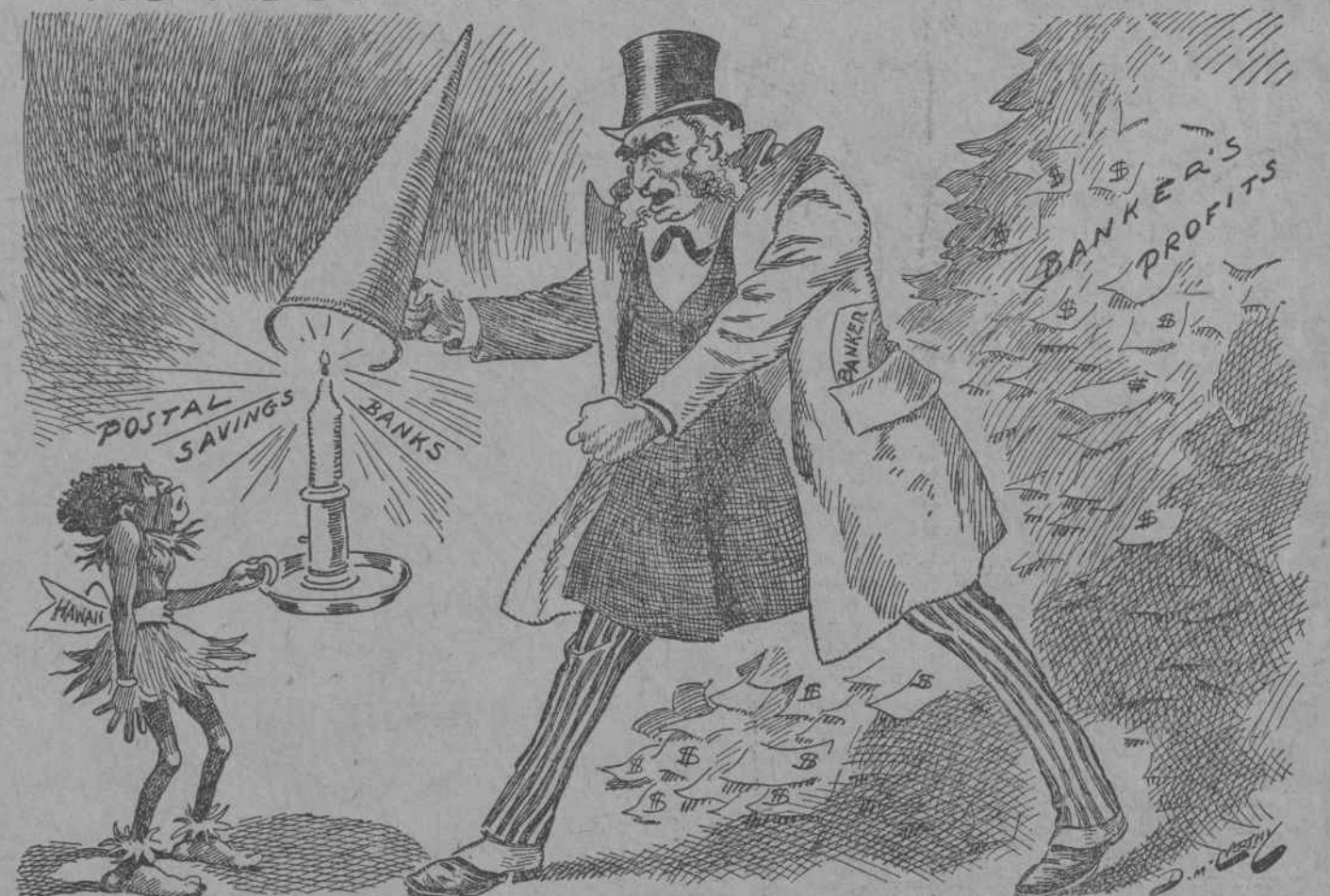
In the order of the Knights of Labor is found a common ground whereon can stand the radical and the conservative, the trade unionist and the man of manual toil, the clerk and the student. In our councils also provision is made to educate to a full knowledge of his rights as a citizen every man who works for wages, whether it be by hand or brain, thus furnishing the only school in our country where true patriotism is taught and love of country for our country's sake is the lesson of the day, where citizenship of the highest order is the grand, ungodly, god-like ideal, and where the highest degree, and moral worth, and the true standard of individual excellence, is taught as the true standard of order depends the future of our country. Its principles are already indelibly impressed upon the hearts of millions of our best citizens.

The question may arise, What is the Knights of Labor? It is an organization of men and women to which every one, without regard to creed or color, who works for wages, either by hand or brain, is eligible to membership; whose principal purpose is to organize, educate and direct the power of the working people; where trade differences can be adjusted without hindrance; where the skilled artisan can touch elbows with his unskilled brother on terms of perfect equality; where the assistance of all branches of trade can be directed in the interests of one, and one in the interests of all; where the trade label can be given to every article of manufacture, and where the great questions of the day, upon the solution of which depends the general welfare, can be discussed with perfect freedom.

The Knights of Labor are here to stay, and every workingman should be enrolled under their banner, information how to become a member will be cheerfully furnished by

JOHN W. PARSONS,
General Master Workman,
New York City.

NO POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS HERE.



INDIGNANT BANKER—Don't bring that thing in here, you might set the whole place on fire.

LIKE BLOWING OUT A CANDLE.

SCIENCE TO PUT OUT FIRES
IN SKY SCRAPERS.

BEYOND doubt the most imperative duty of architects and engineers is to devise a means for preventing disastrous spread of fires in the tremendously high buildings which are a feature and, I suppose, a fixture, in New York's scheme of life.

The conflagration which gutted the upper floors of the Home Life Insurance building has adequately impressed the lesson that New York's Fire Department, incomparable organization, is, with the present resources at its command, practically unable to cope with a blaze of any consequence breaking out higher than the eighth story of a building. It has impressed one other lesson which carries no problem with it—every window in any building overlooking the roof of a lower building should be provided with steel shutters covered with asbestos.

It is hard for fire to originate in one of these modern so-called fireproof buildings. Very simple precautions are sufficient to insure safety from fire communicated from the outside, as was the case with the Home Life Insurance building.

Considering the problem, then, of providing against fires which may originate within one of these mammoth structures, I, as a chemist, may perhaps express an opinion, since the Journal has already considered the mechanical difficulties to be overcome.

Each of these tall buildings consists of a myriad of small cells—offices—separated from each other by more or less substantial partitions. Practically, each of these offices may be called an all-right chamber. A fire originates in one of these chambers. There isn't much for it to burn in that one room—a bit of door and window woodwork, a few chairs, a desk, carpet or rugs, and a few books.

In its incipency that fire, confined within narrow quarters, practically all-right, is not dangerous or difficult to subdue. It could be extinguished by a single hand grenade, a bucket or so of water,

if any person were present to promptly apply them. It only becomes dangerous when its own heat has created a draught or suction, which breaks windows and draws in oxygen to fan the flames to greater energy. Its power for damage multiplies in infinite ratio as the feeble flame gathers strength.

The obvious thing to do is not to let it gather strength—quench it in its incipency. In European factories many kinds of automatic sprinkling devices are in use. I suppose you have them here also. But the difficulty seems to be to maintain a sufficient head of water in these tremendously high buildings to feed either hose pipes or sprinklers.

There are other substances which will extinguish fire far more quickly than water.

The cheapest and best of them is carbonic acid gas. If Mr. Edison or some other genius will devise an automatic arrangement which may be installed in every separate cell of these great beehives of human industry—an arrangement which automatically, upon the rise of the temperature in any single room beyond a danger point, will liberate as many cubic feet of carbonic acid gas as there are cubic feet of space in that room—then it will have been made possible to protect these buildings against fire from the inside. Outside protection, as I have said, is a matter merely of walls, windows and shutters.

Carbonic acid gas extinguishes flame instantly upon direct contact—smothers it out. It may be depended upon to do so if it is not dissipated or driven away by a draught of air, which at the same time will feed oxygen to the fire.

But in these great buildings, when the doors separating the many cells are closed, there need be no strong draughts. As to the draughts created by a fire, if the room in which the fire originates is flooded by carbonic acid gas when the temperature reaches 200 F. the fire will have been

extinguished before it has gained strength to create a draught.

As to the mechanical or electrical machinery necessary to perform this service, I cannot make any suggestion. Ask Edison or Patton regarding that. Every chemist knows, however, that carbonic acid gas may be compressed into steel tubes or tanks and kept in storage until needed. It may be thus stored at a pressure of 2,500 pounds to the square inch. At that pressure a very small cylinder of steel would contain twice as many cubic centimeters of gas as would be required to flood the average "sky-scraper" apartment.

KRAFT-SCHONBERG, Ph. D., LL. D.
Baron Kraft-Schonberg is among the most eminent of European chemists. He is inspector of mines and factories under the Swedish Government. He extended by his genius the operative scope of the chlorine process for reducing refractory ores. His knowledge of gases, especially, is profound. He is here to study American methods of mining and reduction. Particularly he is interested in Mr. Edison's electric reduction process for low grade magnetic ores.

Baron Kraft-Schonberg, or Dr. Kraft-Schonberg, as he prefers to be called, saw the big fire last Sunday night. The results of his observation and his solution of the problem which confronts architects, owners, tenants of New York's skyscrapers, as well as the Fire Department, are embodied in his signed statement.

A gentleman whose business is compressing carbonic acid gas for commercial uses, after studying Dr. Kraft-Schonberg's suggestion, made a few figures on a bit of paper.

"The scheme is commercially possible," he said. "The greatest expense would be the steel cylinders capable of withstanding a pressure of 2,500 pounds to the square inch. Filling them with gas would involve only an insignificant expense. Once filled, they need not be refilled until a fire in the building empties some of them. There is no danger in the presence of such cylinders in a building. The metal does not deteriorate under continuous pressure in many years. As to the expense involved, if people who own a bit of ground, 25x120 feet, pile up rental capacity of a whole village upon it, it would seem that the city has a right to demand that they do not spare expense in providing proper safeguards of the life and property of their tenants."

There are many electrical appliances already on the market of proved excellence and reliability which might be easily adapted to the service of opening a cock in a carbonic acid tank under the automatically received impulse of any measured variation in temperature. Dr. Kraft-Schonberg's suggestion appeals at once to property owners, inventors and underwriters.

HARRY SELBY FULTON.

WON WITH THE IRON HORSE.

RUSSIA'S LOCOMOTIVE CONQUEST OF CHINA.

BEFORE the Hon. George Curzon quitted the post of England's Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs to be Viceroy of India he was informed of a plot, already well under way, by which Russia was to make herself mistress of China.

When the final partition of the empire came the Czar would be so strongly entrenched that he might take whatever it seemed to him good to take, in spite of the protests of the powers.

It is an ingenious plot, a very pretty piece of diplomacy, and is typical of the deep schemes that will confront the United States now that she is entered as a factor in the Far East.

The designs of Russia were well hidden. They were discovered by accident. Silently, surely, without any one suspecting, the Czar was acquiring the great northern province of China, Mongolia, or nearly one-third of the empire. Already Manchuria, adjoining Mongolia, is in the clutch of the Bear. That was understood, tacitly agreed to by the powers, but Mongolia was a surprise even to the omniscient Lord Curzon. The plot was laid in this way.

When Russia undertook the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railroad it was announced that the route would be through its own territory to Vladivostok, the port at the mouth of the Amoor River, on the Japan Sea. Afterward a southern route was surveyed through Manchuria. There were protests, but the Czar's acquisition of Port Arthur determined the matter. The railroad is completed to-day from the western frontier to beyond Lake Balkal. On the eastern side all that has been built is a stretch to Khabarovka, about 300 miles north of Vladivostok. A spur has been

run into the interior of Manchuria for about 200 miles.

Ostensibly the road is to cut the difficult Khingan mountains at the north. That is what England and Germany and France expected. In reality, no survey of the Khingan mountains has been made, and Russia has never announced that a pass had been selected. Instead, for the past two years Russian surveyors have been working to the south in Mongolia, laying out a way through the Gobi desert.

The Trans-Siberian road will never run by the Amoor River. That is the proposition made to England's Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and the information came from one of the Czar's surveyors, a Pole. Here is the route he marked out, the one he had surveyed.

The road will run to the south, along the present caravan route, until within two or three hundred miles of Peking; then it will cut to the west. A line is under construction connecting Port Arthur and Vladivostok. The line that nearly reaches Peking will join this midway between the two ports.

In such manner will Russia gain control of the entire northern interior of the Chinese Empire. There will be a wild cry of protest from the powers when the plot is discovered. Perhaps England has already protested. Russia's smiling answer will be:

"There was no pass at the north. We were forced to the south. Really, we thought you knew. It is too late now. The road is built."

Troops of Russian soldiers already people the villages in the Gobi desert. The road will tap the rich Peking district. It will appropriate to Russia

the trade north of the Yellow River—half of China. Treaty ports will lose their value. Mongolian officials have been made the allies of the Czar. Russian officers and Manchurian officials are already hand in glove in the scheme to give the province to Russia.

With the aid of the railroad to the south Russia will be able to land soldiers in the very heart of the Chinese Empire. The road will be extended to Peking, and the combined powers will be unable to dislodge Russia from the territory acquired.

Such is the latest exposed move of Russian diplomacy, made public now for the first time. It is an example of what our diplomats must look for. Heretofore the diplomacy of the United States has differed from that of every other great power. It has been laughed at by every nation except England, but it is secretly feared. American ministers abroad, acting always under instructions from the State Department, pursue one method of procedure. They ask for what they want and insist upon it.

It is a fact not generally known that America has presented to nearly every country letters, took place in the way of another power. She has made a series of ultimatums. Other powers get to them without asking for it, or if compelled to, they ask to see their real wish, or, in the end, endeavor to force the grant by veiled threats of commercial retaliation. To this is due the exclusion of our dressed meats, prohibitive laws against American products on the part of France and Italy. With the United States as a world power a new diplomacy must spring up. We must either enervate the tact and dissimulation of European diplomats or force them to adopt, at least with us, the habit of speaking plainly.

CHOLLY KNICKERBOCKER'S CHATTER.

BOURKE COCKRAN'S
PROGRESS IN SOCIETY.

WONDER if there is any foundation for the rumor that Mr. Bourke Cockran will ask for the hand of Miss Virginia Fair. There is a little gossip about this just at present. Mr. Cockran is very attentive, and he is all the fashion just now.

I saw him at Sherry's on Sunday night. He has, unfortunately, adopted somewhat of the W. E. D. Stokes and the Stevens Ullman method, which does not betoken an exact feeling of ease in society. But I suppose that will wear off. He is so clever, you know.

But he should not make the tour of the restaurant shaking hands with everybody he knows. It savors too much of the ward politician.

He was with Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, and she has made him the absolute fashion. He has magnificent apartments at Sherry's and he is going to entertain this Winter.

After dinner he asked the Earl of Strafford, Mrs. Colgate, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith and Stuyvesant Fish to see his rooms, and coffee and liqueurs were served there. On Monday evening he was at the opera, and he wandered from box to box, gay and debonaire.

I hear that this year Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish has

set the fashion for brains. One must be amusing and clever, and whoever is that can enter the doors and be among the bidden.

There is something in this fad which is positively refreshing.

When we quit this vale of tears I suppose that we can expect anything. If we are in society—as we are—our heirs and our relatives will at once turn everything which belongs to us into cash. At least that seems to be the fashion among the exclusives, and the haste with which this is done can hardly be termed decent.

Every one remembers how soon after the death of Mrs. Parson Stevens Mrs. Arthur Paget hastened to this side and had her mother's effects sold at auction, and in another equally well-known instance everything belonging to a deceased brother, even down to his very hair brushes, was sold.

Last week there was almost a similar sale of the effects of poor James Otis, who was society's standby for years. Mr. Otis was well born, with an independent fortune, and the best cotillon leader in New York. To within a few years of his death he was still dancing with the debutantes. He had exquisite manners and was a general fa-

vorite, as he was not of this generation of society, where snobs are plentiful and gentlemen scarce. His devotion to Mrs. Astor was well known, and more than once it was reported that there might be an engagement.

Mr. Otis died last Summer. The auction of his furniture, all his little personal belongings, took place in the way of another power. She insists that the supper be served at small tables and that there be no stand-up collation. This thing is a relic of the dark ages, and I was always sure to see that New York cling to it long after Philadelphia and other cities had given it up.

Always supper at small tables. The scramble for food at a buffet is revolting, and it is generally resorted to in ruin to gowns and men's clothes, and very little to eat for it.

In a few years this utterly barbarous and provincial custom will be relegated to the backwoods. It should have never been tolerated at Delmonico's.

CHOLLY KNICKERBOCKER.